

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed May 21, 2003 ("Office Action"). At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-21 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-5, 10, 12-15, and 18-21; and objects to Claims 6-9, 11, 16, and 17. Applicants amend Claims 1, 5-6, 8, 10-12, 17, and 19-20 to advance prosecution in this case. Applicants do not admit that these amendments were necessary as a result of any cited art. Applicants add New Claims 22-32. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments or by New Claims 22-32. Applicants cancel Claims 15-16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Consideration of Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants mailed an Information Disclosure Statement on February 21, 2002 that the Examiner has failed to consider entirely. The IDS was filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. The Examiner has failed to initial the Samavati et al. reference on page 2, Other Art section. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider all of the art cited in the IDS dated February 21, 2002, and in the event a patent issues on this Application, that this art be printed on the face of the issued patent. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully request a copy of the PTO Form-1449 for the IDS indicating the Examiner's consideration of the references.

In the Drawings

The attached sheets of annotated marked-up drawings include changes to FIGURES 1A, 1D, and 1E. Replacement sheets are also attached. The term "prior art" has been added to FIGURES 1A, 1D, and 1E.

Section 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 5, 10, 12, 15, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,215,363 issued to Conta et al. ("*Conta*"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection of Claims 1, 5, 10, 12, 15, and 19.

Conta fails to teach, suggest, or disclose several limitations of amended Claim 1, including but not limited to, "wherein ... the positive current branch comprises a first current path and a second current path ... the negative current branch comprises a first current path

and a second current path ... and current flows through particular paths of the positive current branch and the negative current branch based at least in part upon the voltage pulses.” For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of amended Claim 1.

Conta fails to teach, suggest, or disclose several limitations of amended Claim 5, including but not limited to, “first current branch comprising a plurality of PMOS transistors arranged to form a first current path and a second current path ... second current branch comprising a plurality of NMOS transistors arranged to form a first current path and a second current path.” For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of amended Claim 5. Claim 10 depends from Claim 5, shown above to be allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of amended Claim 10.

Applicants amend Claim 12 to include limitations of Claims 15 and 16, as suggested by the Examiner. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of amended Claim 12. Applicants cancel Claims 15 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Conta fails to teach, suggest, or disclose several limitations of amended Claim 19, including but not limited to, “wherein ... the positive current branch comprises a first current path and a second current path ... the negative current branch comprises a first current path and a second current path ... and current flows through particular paths of the first current branch and the second current branch based at least in part upon the voltage pulses.” For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of amended Claim 19.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 2-4, 13, 14, 18, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Conta*. Claims 2-4, 13, 14, 18, 20, and 21 depend from independent claims shown above to be allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 2-4, 13, 14, 18, 20, and 21.

Claim Objections and New Claims

Applicants have amended Claim 10, line 1 per the suggestion of the Examiner.

The Examiner objects to Claims 6-9, 11, 16, and 17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that New Claims 22-26 comprise various claims objected to by the Examiner rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of New Claims 22-26.

New Claims 27-32 depend from independent claims shown above to be allowable and recite further limitations that are patentably distinguishable over *Conta*. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of New Claims 27-32.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Samir A. Bhavsar, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6581.

Applicant encloses a check in the amount of \$498.00 to cover the cost of additional claims. Although no other fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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